

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 289 038 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 08.11.1995

(21) Application No 9408434.0

(22) Date of Filing 28.04.1994

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(51) INT CL⁶
B65D 33/00

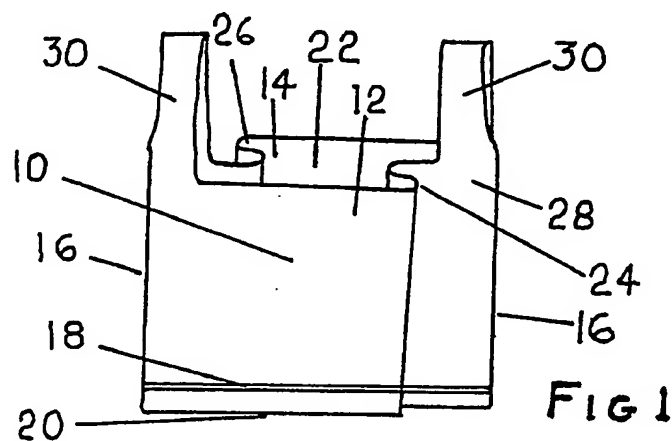
(52) UK CL (Edition N)
B8K KCB KWX K2H4 K2K3 K2L

(56) Documents Cited
US 4911560 A US 2189174 A

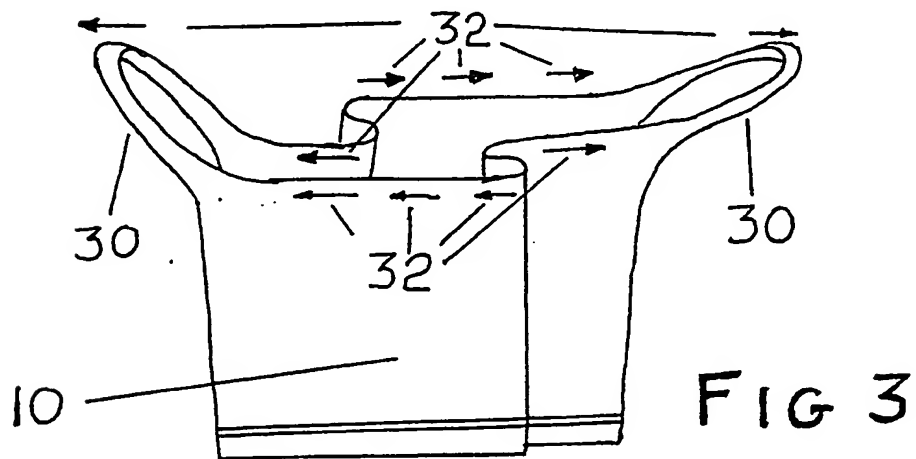
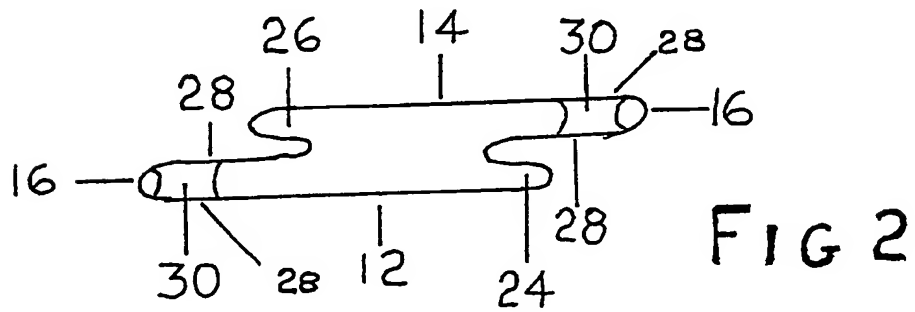
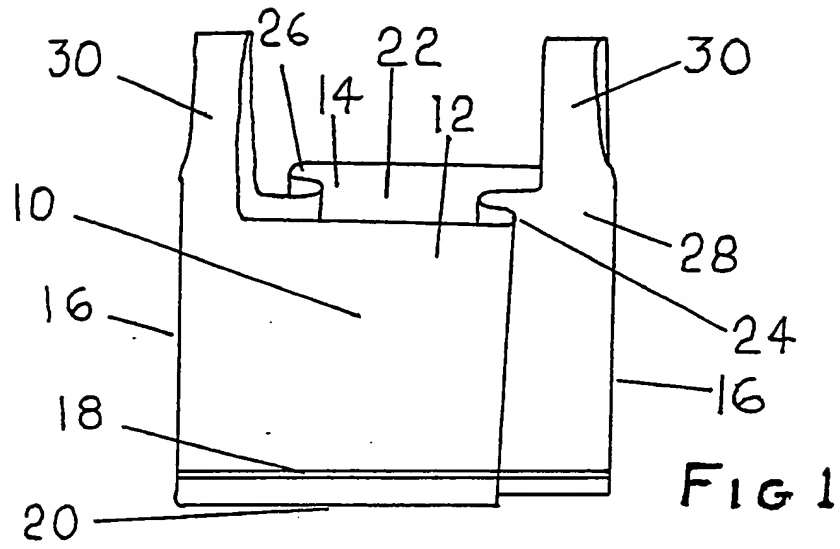
(58) Field of Search
UK CL (Edition M) B8K KAB KAC KCB KWX
INT CL⁶ B65D 30/00 33/00

(54) An easier to open plastic bag

(57) A bag which can have the adhesion between the front and rear layers broken by pulling on the handles has a fold 24 in the front layer 12 and a fold 26 in the rear layer 14. The folds are offset from each other. Handles 30 are formed from areas near the side edges 16. These handles do not include any part of the folds. When the handles 30 are pulled away from each other the folds move apart allowing easier access.



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AN EASIER TO OPEN PLASTIC BAG

This invention relates to an easier to open plastic bag.

Plastic bags can be difficult to open due to the front and rear layers of the bag clinging together forming an unwanted adhesion at the mouth of the bag. This unwanted adhesion is often encountered with the type of bag dispensed from rolls of bags in supermarkets. Customers have developed various techniques to break this unwanted adhesion but whatever the technique these techniques require varying degrees of manual dexterity. When this adhesion has been broken then it is easy to open the bag by pulling the front and rear layers apart.

An objective of the present invention is to enable the immediate breaking of the unwanted adhesion by pulling on the handles of the present invention with no prior action or no prior manipulation being required.

According to the present invention there is provided a plastic bag comprising a front layer and a rear layer joined at the side edges and joined by a weld at the bottom. The bag has a fold in the front layer and a fold in the rear layer. The said folds are situated sufficiently away from the side edges to allow continuations of the areas at the side edges to form handles. The said handles are loops which exclude any part of the said folds. The folds are welded into the aforementioned weld. The fold in the front layer is offset from the fold in the rear layer.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing in which:-

Figure 1 shows the bag in perspective with exaggerated folds.

Figure 2 shows an exaggerated top view of folds.

Figure 3 illustrates the breaking of the unwanted adhesion.

Referring to the drawing, the plastic bag 10 comprises of a front layer 12 and a rear layer 14 joined at the edges 16 and with a weld 18 at the bottom 20 to form an enclosure with a

mouth or opening 22. The bag 10 has a fold 24 in the front layer 12 and a fold 26 in the rear layer 14 as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2. The folds 24, 26 are welded into the bottom weld 18. The folds 24, 26 are positioned sufficiently away from the edges 16 of the bag 10 to allow continuations of the areas 28 at the edges 16 to form handles 30. The fold 24 in the front layer is offset from the fold 26 in the rear layer. Handles 30 of the bag 10 are loops formed from continuations of the areas 28 next to the edges of the bag and these handles 30 exclude any part of the folds 24, 26. Figure 3 illustrates the breaking of the unwanted adhesion by pulling on the handles 30. The arrows 32 indicate the relative movement of parts of the front layer 12, the rear layer 14 and the movement across the folds 24, 26.

CLAIMS

1 A plastic bag comprising a front layer and a rear layer joined at the side edges and joined by a weld at the bottom. The said bag has a fold in the front layer and a fold in the rear layer. The said folds are situated sufficiently away from the side edges to allow continuations of the areas at the side edges to form handles. The said handles are loops which exclude any part of the said folds. The folds are welded into the aforementioned weld. The fold in the front layer is offset from the fold in the rear layer.

Patents Act 1977
Examiner's report to the Comptroller under Section 17
(The Search report)

Application number
GB 9408434.0

Relevant Technical Fields

- (i) UK Cl (Ed.M) B8K (KAB, KAC, KCB, KWX)
(ii) Int Cl (Ed.5) B65D 30/00, 33/00

Search Examiner
M J RICHARDSON

Date of completion of Search
13 JULY 1994

Databases (see below)

(i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :-
1

(ii)

Categories of documents

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| X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step. | P: Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application. |
| Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category. | E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application. |
| A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art. | &: Member of the same patent family; corresponding document. |

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
X	US 4911560 (HOOVER) see entire specification	1
A	US 2189174 (HOHL) See Figure 5	1

Databases: The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).